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Secret funding over, CIA director says

CHICAGO (AP)—CIA Director Stansfield Turner said Monday that his agency no longer uses secret front organizations to fund human behavior research—like two projects funded at the University—and promised that the CIA will become increasingly open with the public.

"I believe the intelligence community must be more open with the American public," said Turner, 54, at a news conference, which he said was part of a CIA effort to eliminate unnecessary subterfuge.

Asked about the CIA's use of front organizations to finance research into human behavior, Turner said he "absolutely" opposes the use of such tactics.

The behavior research on unknowing human subjects formerly authorized by the CIA "is abhorrent to me," said Turner, adding that human behavior tests involving drugs and other substances now go through the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He said that most such covert research into human behavior ended in 1972 and the bulk of it was "very good research, very well-motivated and humanely done."

University President John E. Corbally recently criticized the CIA for using subterfuge to disguise the funding of the two MK-ULTRA research projects. He said the projects were not controversial and the University would have accepted them directly from the CIA.

Turner said the CIA generates many unclassified reports on matters such as the Soviet economy, world energy and the world steel market that will be shared with the public.

"When we can we'll publish what we can. We'll tell you about the process of intelligence. A large part of it is not clandestine spying operations. It is what you would term at any university simply normal research.

"It's not necessary to dip to a level of ineffectiveness that will endanger the country," Turner said, proposing "a balance between more oversight (by Congress) and the preservation of secrecy. It will take several years to work out these procedures," he said.

He said oversight by House and Senate committees has worked well so far, although the agency has to guard against such dangers as information leaks and against becoming too timid to be effective.

On another issue, Turner said that microwave bombardment of the U.S. embassy in Moscow can not be stopped because "they can beam from all kinds of directions at us." Stopping the longtime Soviet practice "has to be done by persuasion rather than by brute force."

Asked about Soviet use of radiation in this country, Turner said the Soviet embassy intercepts microwave transmissions although there is no evidence that they use radiation in any other way.

He said such pirating of information sent by microwave is common worldwide and affects commercial microwaves as well, including telephone conversations that are relayed by microwave links.

By intercepting microwaves "hijackers, gangsters, foreign intelligence operators and industrial spies" can all use private information for their own purposes, Turner said.

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